

interest to Indians pending on Capitol Hill during the period from 1994 through 1996. For example, there were proposals to amend: the American Indian Religious Freedom Act;⁵⁷⁰ the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1974;⁵⁷¹ and the Indian Self-Determination Act.⁵⁷² Members introduced the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act,⁵⁷³ and several proposals to reorganize the Bureau of Indian Affairs.⁵⁷⁴ In part due to the economic prosperity of some gaming tribes, deep cuts were proposed in appropriations for Interior – particularly for the BIA.⁵⁷⁵

Against this backdrop, tribes that had opposed the Hudson casino application made substantial and, in many cases, unprecedented contributions to the DNC, the President's Re-

⁵⁷⁰Rep. Richardson introduced two bills in 1994 to amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. *See* H. R. 4155, 103rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1994) (requiring Federal agencies to manage land so as not to frustrate American Indian religious practice); H. R. 4230, 103rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1995) (permitting the traditional use of peyote for American Indian religious purposes).

⁵⁷¹*See* S. 764, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995) (relating to the adoption of Indian children); H. R. 1448, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995) (same). *See also Birth Rights – Custody vs. Culture*, USA Weekend, Oct. 15, 1995, at 4.

⁵⁷²Delay in the implementation of regulations required by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1988 resulted in introduction of the Indian Self-Determination Contract Reform Act of 1994. *See* S. 1410, S. 2310, 103rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1994).

⁵⁷³This Act was intended to give Indians more control over money held in trust for them by DOI. H. R. 4833, 103rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1994). *See also* Senate Oversight Hearings S. 104-514, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995).

⁵⁷⁴*See, e.g.,* S. 814, 104th Cong., 1st Sess. (1995).

⁵⁷⁵Amidst contentious congressional debates, Babbitt vowed to call on the President to veto the resulting bill. *See e.g., Tribes say gambling tax threatens self-sufficiency*, The Arizona Daily Star, Sept. 21, 1995, at 3B ("Indian tribes in Arizona and other states suffered a double defeat yesterday as a new gambling tax headed toward the House floor and congressional negotiators restored only part of a cut in tribal funding.").